

283104

Stephen Englert

Feb 20, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

If I've calculated properly, this is a 250% increase in a charge that doesn't impact electric usage. I am retired and on a fixed income and it would take 100 years of 2% retirement income to match this increase.

This is totally unfair, not only to retirees but also low income residents. This increase is way out of line in almost any scenario that could be defined or justified. And if this increase is associated with the failed nuclear plant which was a miserable failure of management then this situation is not fair to all residential customers.

I would hope and assume that the SC Public Service Commission would recognize this outrageous increase and reject it in the name of fairness to the South Carolina communities.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Englert

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